

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 7:00 in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Kevin Cunningham, Chair; Dr. Jose Cara, Vice Chair;
Jennifer Geddes; and Mary Guimond, Clerk
Guest: David Knauf, Darien Director of Health

This meeting was taped for showing on Channel 79.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Cunningham. Mr. Knauf was first on the agenda with Health Department update. There continues to be regular discussion regarding H1N1 and seasonal flu among the Health Department, the Board of Education and the Senior Center to share information and coordinate activity. The schedule for town-wide seasonal flu clinics has been posted to the town's website. Seasonal flu vaccine is slow in coming and will be available soon but the H1N1 vaccine is not yet available. A letter of understanding has been executed between the town and the Board of Education to allow the town to use schools as clinic sites in the event vaccinations of large segments of town residents are necessary at some time in the future.

Most forms for doing business with the Darien Department of Health are now available through the website. Preliminary work has begun on the Digital Health Department and that software package may be up and running by early summer. Mr. Knauf and Ms. Guimond continue their efforts to update Health Department ordinances and will be meeting with Town Counsel next week.

A press release by the State reports that Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been discovered in mosquitoes in a pool in Darien but there have been no human cases recorded in Darien or the State.

The town is up to date on restaurant inspections. The rating document is starting to be posted in restaurants around town. Dr. Cara suggested that now might be a good time for Mr. Knauf to speak with the press about this new rating program and Mr. Knauf agreed.

The water sampling report is nearly complete. Measureable amounts of chlorine have been detected recently in Gorham's Pond, which will require monitoring.

Mr. Knauf reminded the board that the ceremony marking Darien's designation as a HeartSafe Community by the State will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2009, at 7:30 pm in Town Hall. Mr. Knauf was then excused from the meeting.

Discussion turned to determining which senior issues would be best for our board to focus upon. Ms. Geddes volunteered to speak with Kiki Karpen of Aging in Place, to the new director of the Senior Center, to the Commission on Aging, and to Olive Hauser,

director of Social Services, to determine what issues these organizations feel ABH can best help them with. Ms. Geddes will provide an informal report at the next ABH meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7:00 in room 213 of Town Hall.

Dr. Cara mentioned that he has attended the first meeting of a committee that will evaluate all emergency services in Darien. Dr. Cara also mentioned that he would like to see a campaign on awareness of pedestrian right-of-way. We agreed this was a traffic and police issue and Chair Cunningham agreed to contact the Police Commissioner to begin a discussion on this important safety topic.

Ms. Geddes reports that she is hearing many complaints about dogs loose on the beach. Enforcement of existing Parks and Recreation regulations seems to be in question. Ms. Guimond agreed to try to find out more information regarding enforcement issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted on September 29, 2009

Mary Guimond
Clerk